



Advocate is thrilled to announce that, thanks to an incredible show of support from the Bar, it placed a record-breaking 1,412 pieces of pro bono work with barristers in 2020.

This wonderful news comes at the start of Advocate's 25th anniversary year. Despite barristers suffering terrible upheaval due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 470 people signed up to Advocate panel to help vulnerable applicants receive advice, drafting and representation when they needed it most. This is an impressive 86% increase on last year and their enthusiasm enabled us to place almost twice as many cases than in 2019.

We are honoured to have such magnificent support from our Advocate panel members and the wider Bar. We are aware of the outstanding amount of work that barristers all over the country give in support of access to justice, making a real difference to people's lives.

"The work you do is truly vital to so many people like myself who cannot afford legal representation at stages like these in life and I'm truly grateful for your kindness and dedication."

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2



Read Ella's story. Ella was pressured to take out a bank loan to lend her boyfriend some money with the promise he would pay her back. When they split up, he claimed the loan was a gift and refused to pay it off, so she took him to court.

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3



Thank you to everyone who donated to or shared our Christmas Challenge campaign at the end of last year. We were delighted to raise £14,964 (including gift aid), which will enable us to continue to provide essential support.

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4

Advocate 2020 Statistics

1,412

Pieces of work placed in 2020

3847

Requests for help in 2020

470

New panel members in 2020

Advocate highlights 2020:

1. We moved our service successfully online
2. We placed nearly double the number of cases placed in 2019
3. We welcomed our new CEO, Rebecca Wilke and three new trustees.

[advocate](#)

Become a Pro Bono Champion

Does your Chambers have a Pro Bono Champion? If not, please consider becoming the Advocate representative for your Chambers. It is a light-touch role, but makes a real difference to us placing cases in Chambers, and can provide more opportunities for you and your colleagues. Contact Bryony, bwells@weareadvocate.org.uk, for more information.



[OUR PRO BONO CHAMPIONS](#)



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Taking on Pro Bono

"A barrister unsure of whether to do pro bono work should start with just one case. As barristers we have a unique skill and can make a difference to cases at a difficult time." Winner of the 2020 Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year award for his work helping victims of domestic violence in the first lockdown, Zimran Samuel from Doughty Street, shares what motivates him.

Our volunteer barrister success stories

<p>7</p> <p>Mass Ndow-Njie Government Legal Dpt.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Harriet Wakeman Temple Garden Chambers</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Robert Levack 187 Fleet Street Chambers</p>
<p>Mass joined Advocate in December 2020. Within a week of signing up, Mass looked at case papers on a Monday, accepted the case on Tuesday and helped the applicant on Wednesday! The applicant said: <i>"He is very professional, an amazing lawyer, very thorough and has an acute understanding of his clients and their needs."</i></p>	<p>Harriet took five separate cases with Advocate in 2020, an extraordinary amount of time. Harriet is very willing to pick up calls from our Casework Team and consider taking on cases and is a pleasure to work with. As one of our recent applicants commented: <i>"She was extremely professional, thorough and sympathetic to my plight."</i></p>	<p>Robert took on three separate criminal and personal injury cases with Advocate in 2020. One applicant noted: <i>"Not only has Robert been extremely diligent in his professional capacity but this excellence also extends to his empathy and affable nature...I feel that he is true testimony to what a barrister should be."</i> Thank you, Robert.</p>
<p>Read more here</p>	<p>Read more here</p>	<p>Read more here</p>

10

Thank you

We hope you are enjoying your Advocate monthly round up. If there is anything you would like to see featured in this newsletter, or if you have an interesting case that you would like us to write up, please get in contact with us as we would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact Bryony at bwells@weareadvocate.org.uk